

ABSTRACT

Systems and methods for converting physical signatures to electronic signatures are described that utilize public keys encoded in ink strands embedded or suspended in a printing material that is used to create the physical signature. A user signs a paper document with the signed ink and the paper document is scanned to create an electronic document. A public key associated with the user is identified in the ink strands in the physical signature. An electronic signature database is accessed to obtain an electronic signature that is uniquely associated with the public key detected in the ink strands. The electronic signature is retrieved and attached to the electronic document to create an electronically signed electronic document.